

Aims Community College Associate Degree Nursing Program Written Orientation

Program Information

State Approval and National Accreditation Information

- Colorado State Board of Nursing (SBON)
 - www.dora.state.co.us/nursing
- Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN)
 - www.acenursing.org

Location

Aims Community College
Nursing Department
Allied Health & Sciences Building, Suite 203
5401 W. 20th St.
Greeley, CO 80634

About Our Nursing Program

The Aims Community College Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Program provides students with the opportunity to learn skills to care for patients of all ages in a variety of healthcare settings.

In addition to learning technical skills used in providing care, major emphasis is placed on the development of the attributes of critical thinking and professionalism. This rigorous program offers theoretical and applied instruction in classroom, simulated laboratories, and clinical settings.

The ability to synthesize information and then coherently and succinctly communicate the information in written assignments is critical for program success. The Nursing Curriculum is a progressive sequence of nursing courses that build upon each other and build on the required general education courses. Therefore, it is important to understand that retaining knowledge gained in both, your general education courses and nursing courses, is essential for success in the Nursing Program.

Full-Time Commitment

- The Nursing Program schedule is considered full-time.
- Due to the fast pace and heavy academic demands in the Nursing Program outside employment should be carefully considered.
- Clinical rotations vary (days, nights, and/or weekends). The student must make necessary accommodations in order to attend clinical during scheduled timeframes.
- Students are responsible for their own transportation to clinical sites.

Degree Awarded

- Graduates of the Aims Associate Degree Nursing Program earn an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree with a Nursing Major
- Graduates are eligible to apply to take the National Council Licensure Examination - Registered Nurse (NCLEX-RN)

Practical Nurse (PN) Exit Option

- After successful completion of the first year of the Program, students may choose to take a summer course to earn a Practical Nurse Certificate from Aims.
- A Practical Nurse Certificate will enable the completer to apply to take the National Council Licensure Examination - Practical Nurse (NCLEX-PN).

Aims – UNC Dual Enrollment

The Aims Community College Nursing Program and University of Northern Colorado School of Nursing have partnered to offer students an option of dual enrollment. Students are *highly encouraged* to take advantage of this opportunity as the local and national trend is progressing to hiring of BSN prepared nurses. In addition, some clinical facilities require enrollment in a BSN dual enrollment program to attend clinical. This program begins the summer prior to beginning the Aims Nursing Program and allows the student to take courses towards a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing (BSN) at UNC while completing the Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Program at Aims. After completion of the ADN the student will have two additional semesters of BSN coursework. Other liberal arts core courses could be required prior to completion of the BSN degree. See link on website for more information:

<https://www.unco.edu/nhs/nursing/programs/undergraduate/dual-enrollment-degree-program.aspx>

RN to BSN Transition

Another option for students who successfully complete the Aims Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) Program to continue their education and earn a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing (BSN) is the RN-BSN Transition option.

Aims and UNC have worked closely to develop seamless transition into the RN-BSN program.

Aims Nursing Program regionally accredited Prerequisites and General Education Requirements

- BIO 201 Anatomy and Physiology I (4 credits)
- BIO 202 Anatomy and Physiology II (4 credits)
- ENG 121 English Composition I (3 credits)
- MAT 135 Statistics (3 credits)
- HPR 108 Dietary Nutrition (1 credit)
- BIO 204 Microbiology (4 credits)
- PSY 235 Human Growth and Development (3 credits)
- Humanities or Social/Behavioral Science or Another Approved Elective (3 credits)

Nursing Program Coursework

First Semester:

- NUR 109 Fundamentals of Nursing – 6 credits
 - NUR 112 Basic Concepts of Pharmacology – 2 credits
 - BIO 204 Microbiology – 4 credits*
 - PSY 235 Human Growth and Development – 3 credits*
- *May be taken either during OR before the first semester.

Second Semester:

- NUR 106 Medical Surgical Nursing Concepts – 7 credits
- NUR 150 Maternal-Child Nursing – 6 credits

Third Semester:

- NUR 206 Advanced Concepts of Medical Surgical Nursing I – 6.5 credits
- NUR 211 Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing – 4 credits
- NUR 212 Pharmacology II – 2 credits

Fourth Semester:

- NUR 216 Advanced Concepts of Medical Surgical Nursing II – 5 credits
- NUR 230 Transition to Professional Nursing Practice – 4 credits
- Approved Elective – 3 credits*

*May be taken either during OR before the first semester.

Prerequisite and General Education Coursework Guidelines

Courses Required to Apply to the Program

- BIO 201, BIO 202, ENG 121, MAT 135, and HPR 108 are considered prerequisite coursework.
- All prerequisites must be completed with a grade of “C” or better.
- The course(s) must be eligible for transfer into Aims and demonstrate that a grade of “C” or better was earned in all prerequisite coursework in order to remain eligible for Provisional Admission.

Courses that May be Taken During the Nursing Program

- BIO 204 Microbiology and PSY 235 Human Growth and Development must be completed during, or prior to the first semester of the Nursing Program.
 - If you delay taking PSY 235 and/or BIO 204 until the fall semester you will need to register for an online or late afternoon/evening class, because nursing courses will have a varied schedule Monday through Friday, 6:00 am – 4:00 pm. BIO 204 fills up quickly so plan to register early.
- A grade of “C” or better is required for BIO 204 and PSY 235 in order to progress to the second semester of the Nursing Program.
- An approved Humanities or Social/Behavioral Sciences or another approved substitute must be completed with a grade of “C” or better prior to graduation.

Age Limitations for Prerequisite and General Education Coursework

- BIO 201, BIO 202, BIO 204, and MAT 135, may be no older than 7 years at the time the student begins the Nursing Program.
- PSY 235 and HPR 108 may be no older than 7 years at the time the student begins the Nursing Program, unless the student has taken those courses as part of an earned AA/AS/AAS/BA/BS/AGS degree from a regionally accredited institution.
- ENG 121 or an equivalent course that is older than 10 years and was taken at another college/university other than Aims Community College may not be eligible for transfer credit unless the student has earned an AA/AS/AAS/BA/BS degree from a regionally accredited institution.

Things to Know Before Applying to the Aims Nursing Program

Age Requirement

Students must be 18 years of age at the time they begin the Nursing Program.

Technical Standards

Aims Nursing Program has adopted Technical Standards. Candidates for the ADN degree must be able to meet these minimum standards, with or without reasonable accommodations, for successful completion of program requirements.

Please review the Technical Standards under the Prospective Student tab on the Nursing website.

Clinical Site Requirements

Clinical sites retain the right to deny a student access to their facility based on the results of additional required fingerprinting, drug screens, and/or background checks. In the event a student is denied access to a clinical site, the student may be unable to complete the course requirements, successfully pass the course, and/or graduate.

Note: The cost of additional background checks, drug screens, and/or fingerprinting is typically paid for by the clinical agency. However, it is possible that the expense may be the responsibility of the student.

Note: The presence of marijuana will disqualify you from entering the Nursing Program

My Clinical Exchange is a clinical student placement platform that been established by clinical agencies to manage student clinical rotations and compliance. It will be the students' responsibility to register and pay for the platform once admitted into the Nursing Program. Some clinical sites may require additional documentation. See the list of acceptable documents on the "Prospective Student" link on the Nursing website under "Documents that Establish Identity and Employment Verification".

Disability Access Services

Students with a documented disability should contact Disability Access Services (DAS) at 970.339.6251 to set up an appointment or email disabilities@aims.edu. Please be aware that before accommodations can be allowed they must be approved through the DAS Office.

Steps to Apply

STEP 1

- Apply to Aims Community College by completing an application and submitting it to Admissions, Registration, and Records. *
 - **Applications are only good for 12 months. If you have a prior application on file and have not attended Aims in the last year, you will need to reapply.*
- You can apply to Aims online at www.aims.edu
 - Declare "Pre-Nursing" as your major.
- Apply for Financial Aid, if needed.
- Complete Aims Online New Student Orientation
 - This orientation can be found when you log in to your myAims account, click on the Student tab, and click on the New Student Orientation link.
- Assess for college placement or provide transcripts to meet assessment requirements.
- If you plan to register for pre-nursing courses, schedule an advising appointment with an Allied Health Designated Advisor. The advisor will help you develop a plan for completing prerequisite coursework.
- To make an appointment with an Allied Health Designated Advisor, please telephone 970.339.6251.
 - If you reach voicemail, please leave your full name and telephone number and allow 24 hours for a return call.
 - The Welcome Desk to schedule appointments in person is located on the first floor of the College Center.
- One-hour appointments need to be scheduled with Allied Health Advisors.

STEP 2

- Attend an in-person orientation or read through [this](#) written orientation.

STEP 3

- Take the HESI Exam between August 1st and May 1st of the year you are applying.
- More details about the HESI exam are found on the "HESI Information" link on the "Prospective Students" page.

STEP 4

- Submit official transcripts to the Aims Records Department for courses taken at an institution other than Aims for transfer evaluation.
- For more information about Transfer Credits visit <https://www.aims.edu/student/admissions/transfer/creditTo.php>

STEP 5

Submit Completed Application Materials to the Aims Nursing Program between **April 17th and May 15th by 3:00pm (MST)**. Applications can be sent via certified mail or hand-delivered. No late submissions will be accepted. Include the following:

1. Completed and signed "Aims Nursing Program Application"
2. All unofficial transcripts demonstrating completion of or current enrollment in in BIO 201, BIO 202, ENG 121, MAT 135, and HPR 108 (or approved substitutes).
 - *Unofficial transcripts must demonstrate that completed courses have been completed with a grade of "C" or better.*
3. Official documentation of High School GPA (only if you have completed less than 12 college credits)
4. Official, verifiable documentation of meeting the minimum required scores on the HESI A2 Admission Assessment Exam. All scores must be from the same exam.
 - HESI A2 minimum scores for admission:
 - Reading Comprehension: 75%
 - Vocabulary and General Knowledge: 75%
 - Math: 75%
5. Documentation of a current, state-issued, non-restricted Certified Nurse Aide (CNA) license.
6. Documentation of work experience as an EMT, CNA, LPN, or Paramedic (only if you have it, this is **not** mandatory). Experience can be either paid or volunteer. Documentation of experience should be in the form of a letter (or letters) from any current or previous employer written on company letterhead and signed by a supervisor or Human Resources representative. To earn points you need to demonstrate that you have worked a minimum of 800 hours (paid or volunteer) for that area. Note: work experience is NOT a requirement to apply for the Nursing Program but if you have it you can earn extra points. However, having a current CNA license IS a requirement to apply.

Criteria for Admission

Admission Criteria is based on GPA, HESI A-2 results, academic achievement in sciences, and specific work experience. Candidates are given points according to a scale. The students with the highest points are accepted for admission according to the number of class vacancies. Only fully complete applications will be considered for admission. Incomplete applications will not be processed. It is the student's sole responsibility to ensure that applications are complete prior to submission for consideration of admission. Applications are only good for the current admission year.

1. GPA Requirement

For students who have 12 hours or more of college credit, college GPA will be utilized. If less than 12 hours of college credit, high school GPA will be used if the student has graduated with a high school diploma. A minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 is required for admission. Points will be designated as follows:

GPA 2.5 to 3.0 = 1 point

GPA 3.1 to 3.5 = 3 points

GPA 3.6 to 4.0 Or BS Degree = 5 points

Maximum Points Possible = 5

2. HESI A2 Requirements

To be considered for admission, a minimum score of 75% in Reading Comprehension, 75% in Vocabulary and General Knowledge and 75% in Math is required.

Points will be awarded as follows:

- 75% Composite = 1 point
- 76-85% Composite = 3 points
- 86% or above Composite = 5 points

Maximum Points Possible = 5

3. Science Requirements

Supporting sciences must be completed no more than 7 years prior to course commencement in NUR 109. Points will be awarded for each of the following supporting sciences: Anatomy & Physiology, Nutrition, and Microbiology.

- A = 3 points
- B = 2 points
- C = 1 point
- Chemistry = 1 point (C or above) *

Maximum Points Possible = 13

* Chemistry is optional and must be at college-level with a lab.

4. Work Experience

If you have experience working as an EMT, CNA, LPN, or Paramedic you can earn points toward your application.

- EMT (800 hours of experience) = 1 point
- Certified Nursing Assistant (800 hours of experience) = 2 points
- LPN or Paramedic (800 hours of experience) = 3 points

Maximum Points Possible = 3

Total Possible Admission Points = 26

Important Information If You are Accepted

When will I know if I am accepted?

You should expect to receive a certified letter from us during the first week of June. Students who are accepted in the program will need to send us an email to confirm that you plan to attend. We do place students on an alternate list in case someone decides not to enroll in the program.

Mandatory documentation verification sessions

If you are accepted into the program you will need to attend one of two documentation verification sessions during the first week of July. The specific dates and times will be contained within your acceptance letter. You will need to bring the following items with you:

1. MMR – 2 vaccines **or** proof of immunity via three (3) titers for Measles, Mumps, and Rubella
2. Varicella – 2 vaccines (at least 4 weeks apart) **or** proof of immunity via a titer. A doctor's note attesting you have had Varicella/Chickenpox will not suffice.
3. Hepatitis B – 3 vaccines **or** proof of immunity via a titer **or** a signed Declination Form
4. Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis (Tdap) – less than 10 years old
5. Influenza – will be required during the fall semester. **DO NOT** receive this vaccination until instructed to do so.
6. Documentation of a negative Tuberculosis Test. Options include:
 - a. Tuberculosis Skin Test (TST)- must use the two step process
 - b. Interferon Gamma Release Assay (IGRA)- blood test

- c. Chest X-ray and/or a note from a physician
7. Current American Heart Association (AHA) BLS Healthcare Provider CPR card that will be valid until the following June. (Only AHA cards will be accepted)
8. Signed Program Admission Background Investigation Acknowledgement (this will be in your Acceptance letter)
9. Signed Background and Disqualifying Offenses form (this will be in your Acceptance letter)
10. Documents that establish identity and employment verification (information about this will be in your Acceptance letter)

Background Check and Drug Screens

- All applicants who receive “Provisional Admission” to the Aims Nursing Program must apply and pay for a Background Check and Drug Screens.
- If you have a Disqualifying Offense or fail to secure “Negative/Clear” Drug Screens you will be prohibited from entering the Nursing Program.
- See the list of disqualifying offenses on the “Prospective Student” link on the Nursing website under “Disqualifying Offenses.”
- DO NOT proceed with a Background Check or Drug Screens until you are instructed to do so by the Nursing Office.
- Note: Detection of marijuana is considered a disqualifier.

Mandatory new student orientation

If you are accepted into the program you will need to attend a mandatory, all day orientation session on the Wednesday before the first day of classes.